

Col. 2:1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

2:5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

#### 【From Today's Sermon】

"I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those in Laodicea, and for those whom I have not met in person."... Paul was struggling in prison. What was this struggle?

"It is so that their hearts may be encouraged, and they may be bound together in love, and have the full riches of understanding, to know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.

For in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one may deceive you with persuasive arguments."

To those he had met and those he had not. Imprisoned, unable to meet face to face, Paul writes with the heartfelt desire to rush to them and speak. Know Christ, the mystery of God.

Wisdom and knowledge, discernment, hidden mysteries, treasures. These are abundantly present in Christ.

But there were persuasive words. Words that seemed charming, but they were false.

"I rejoice to see your orderly conduct and your firm faith in Christ. Since you have received the Lord Jesus Christ in this way, walk in him."

"God is not a God of disorder but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14:33) Through salvation in Jesus, God has led us from the chaos brought by sin into life, order, and peace.

Good morning, everyone.

They say, "The heat and cold last until the equinoctial days," and indeed, lately, even in the heat, we can increasingly feel the autumn breeze. As this happens, our bodies relax, and the fatigue of summer begins to show. Please take good care of yourselves.

We have now entered chapter 2 of Colossians. This is Paul's prison epistle. Let us continue

reading today.

2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not met me in person.

He was struggling in prison. What was this struggle? Was it a struggle against the hardships, worries, and anxieties of being in prison? No, his struggle was for the people in the church—whether those whose salvation he had been involved in or later generations he had not—that Christ might be formed in that flock.

2:2 This is so that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, and may have the full riches of understanding, so that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.

2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Galatians 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

13:3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

13:6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

13:7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

13:8 Love never fails.

Christ is love. Christ is patient and kind. He does not envy. Christ is not arrogant or proud. He is not rude, does not seek his own interests, is not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs. He does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

He bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Christ never fails.

Yet our love often misses the mark. No, we tend to lose sight of love. We strive to do what is

right and wonderful, yet we miss the central point—that Christ, the mystery at the heart of all things, is love. We often proceed without love, without Christ.

2:2 so that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, and may have all the riches of full understanding, so that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.

2:3 For in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Then you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

By learning from Christ, being forgiven in Christ, having our burdens lifted, and becoming lighthearted, we are led to the right things to learn. We learn, find peace, and can live rightly for our mission.

Here is a world that encourages the heart. Here is a world where love exists and we are bound together by love. Here is truth, which brings us rich understanding. This spiritual knowledge is Christ, the mystery of God. A mystery refers to secret teachings revealed only to a select few disciples, but it has been opened to us.

Rich understanding. It refers to all that is rich, all that is assured—belief, conviction, certainty, assurance—such understanding, comprehension, and recognition. This is the treasure of God we hold in the midst of the thunderbolt.

When we are troubled. When we lack conviction, cannot decide, and are filled with anxiety, I want us to remember that such a treasure exists.

2:4 I say this so that no one may deceive you with persuasive arguments.

2:5 Even though I am absent in body, I am present in spirit, and I rejoice to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

There is far too much knowledge that sounds appealing but is deceitful and false. Even if

people strive earnestly for knowledge, where can they find anything deeper than the knowledge brought by Christ, the mystery of God?

Paul continues to pray fervently even in prison. Though we cannot meet face to face, we can be together in spirit. That is what prayer is. Even when we cannot meet, if we always keep that person in our hearts and pray for them whenever we remember them, their specific needs will be revealed. When we pray further for those needs, our prayer deepens, and even without meeting, our understanding of that person grows.

How often do the words “understanding” and ‘wisdom’ appear in today's Scripture! We are the people who receive knowledge from Jesus Christ, the very source and mystery of wisdom.

“I rejoice to see your orderly conduct and your firm faith in Christ.”

2:6 Since you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live in him.

Here is order. The heart is neatly organized; order brings peace, knowledge is imparted, insight is given, and there is certainty. There is assurance and protection. Those within this conviction cannot be shaken.

Matthew 7:23 Then I will declare to them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’

7:24 Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

7:27 When the rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, it fell—and great was its fall.”

7:28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

7:29 for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

John 16:26 On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say that I will ask the Father on your behalf,

16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

16:28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going

back to the Father.“

16:29 The disciples said, ”Now you are speaking plainly and not using any figures of speech.

16:30 Now we know that you know everything and do not need anyone to question you. Now we know and understand that you have come from God.“

16:31 Jesus answered them, ”Do you now believe?

16:32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.“

1 Corinthians 14:23 If the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers walk in, they will say you are out of your minds.

14:24 But if an unbeliever or outsider comes in while all are prophesying, and everyone gives a message by prophecy, and all judge,

14:25 the secrets of his heart are laid bare. As a result, he will be deeply moved and will worship God, declaring, ”God is truly among you.“

14:26 So, brothers and sisters, what should we do? When you come together, each one should sing hymns, teach, share revelations, speak in tongues, and interpret. But everything must be done for the edification of the church.

14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two or at most three should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.

14:28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should remain silent in the church and speak to himself and to God.

14:29 As for those who prophesy, two or three should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

14:30 But if a revelation is made to another sitting there, the first one should stop speaking.

14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

14:32 And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.

14:33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

◇Prayer; Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship.

Thank You for the encouragement we receive from Paul's bold intercessory prayer and teaching. The world is filled with deceptive words that seem attractive to many. Please grant us the true knowledge and understanding that is hidden and secret. And within that wisdom, protect and guide our lives. Please lead all those who suffer into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.